

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A communication system in which three or more base nodes communicate through a plurality of communication media each formed of at least one relay node, wherein

said three or more base nodes include an assuming unit which handles a plurality of ports connected to said plurality of communication media among ports belonging to said base node as one virtual port to assume said plurality of communication media to be one node.

2. (canceled).

3. (original): The communication system according to claim 1, wherein said assuming unit includes a forwarding data base which registers, for one destination, a plurality of pieces of forwarding information for transferring a data frame transmitted from a certain transmission source to a predetermined destination.

4. (original): The communication system according to claim 1, wherein said assuming unit includes a port mapping table which correlates at least one port of said base node with one virtual port, and a forwarding data base which registers at least one said virtual port in forwarding information for transferring a data frame transmitted from a certain transmission source to a predetermined destination.

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5 - 39 (canceled).

40. (original): A node as a base communicating with each other through a plurality of communication media each formed of at least one relay node in a communication system, comprising an assuming unit which handles a plurality of ports connected to said plurality of communication media among ports belonging to each of three or more nodes as a base as one virtual port to assume said plurality of communication media to be one node.

41. (original): The base node according to claim 40, wherein said assuming unit includes a forwarding data base which registers, for one destination, a plurality of pieces of forwarding information for transferring a data frame transmitted from a certain transmission source to a predetermined destination.

42. (original): The base node according to claim 40, wherein said assuming unit includes a port mapping table which correlates at least one port of said base node with one virtual port, and a forwarding data base which registers at least one said virtual port in forwarding information for transferring a data frame transmitted from a certain transmission source to a predetermined destination.

43 - 65 (canceled).

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66. (original): A communication control program executed on a node as a base communicating with each other through a plurality of communication media each formed of at least one relay node in a communication system, which comprises

an assuming function of assuming said plurality of communication media to be one node by handling a plurality of ports connected to said plurality of communication media among ports belonging to each of three or more nodes as a base as one virtual port.

67. (original): The communication control program according to claim 66, which comprises the function of registering, for one destination, a plurality of pieces of forwarding information for transferring a data frame transmitted from a certain transmission source to a predetermined destination in a forwarding data base.

68. (original): The communication control program according to claim 66, which comprises the function of correlating at least one port of said base node with one virtual port in a port mapping table, and registering at least one said virtual port in forwarding information for transferring a data frame transmitted from a certain transmission source to a predetermined destination in a forwarding data base.

69. (original): The communication control program according to claim 66, which comprises the function of, when transmitting a data frame to said communication medium having a different frame format, transmitting said data frame with header information of the frame format of said communication medium added and when receiving a data frame from said

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communication medium, receiving said data frame with the header information of the frame format of said communication medium removed.

70. (original): The communication control program according to any one of claim 66 to claim 69, which comprises the function of transmitting and receiving a keep alive frame to/from each other to obtain a communication state of the communication system.

71. (original): The communication control program according to claim 70, wherein said keep alive frame is broadcast by said relay node forming said plurality of communication media with a destination address recognized as unknown by said relay node forming said plurality of communication media recited.

72 - 88 (canceled).

89. (original): A computer including a network interface card having the function of communicating with each other through a plurality of communication media each formed of at least one relay node in a communication system, wherein

said network interface card includes an assuming unit which handles a plurality of ports connected to said plurality of communication media among ports belonging to said network interface card three or more nodes as a base as one virtual port to assume said plurality of communication media to be one node.

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90. (original): The computer according to claim 89, wherein said assuming unit of said network interface card includes a forwarding data base which registers, for one destination, a plurality of pieces of forwarding information for transferring a data frame transmitted from a certain transmission source to a predetermined destination.

91. (original): The computer according to claim 89, wherein said assuming unit of said network interface card includes a port mapping table, which correlates at least one port with one virtual port, and a forwarding data base which registers at least one said virtual port in forwarding information for transferring a data frame transmitted from a certain transmission source to a predetermined destination.

92 - 113 (canceled).